

THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR



Rockin' the hangar bay



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Flight operations

On the flight deck of USS Lake Champlain (CG 57), Seaman Nicholas Brassard from Catawissa, Pa. awaits the commencement of flight operations on board the guided missile cruiser. Lake Champlain is part of Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group currently deployed as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region.

Photo by PH3 (AW) Aaron Burden

On the front cover



Photo by:
PHC (SW/NAC)
Spike Call

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Dan Pollock belts out a song during USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) talent show April 4. The event was sponsored by the 3&2 Association and featured 13 acts including bands, dancers and various musicians who performed their talents in front of a live audience.

See story on page 3.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

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Reagan Sailors rock the house during talent show

From USS Ronald Reagan

Public Affairs

Sailors assigned to Carrier Strike Group Seven (CSG-7), including USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), Carrier Air Wing Fourteen (CVW-14), and Destroyer Squadron Seven (DESRON 7) packed into the hangar bay April 4 to witness the talents of shipmates during a talent show for the crew.

The event was sponsored by the 3&2 Association and featured 13 acts including bands, dancers and various musicians who performed their talents in front of a live audience. This was the first such event held aboard Reagan during the current deployment.

According to Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Scott Coffin of the 3&2 Association, the event was designed to boost morale and give the crew a chance to relax from the hectic schedule of the deployment. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three acts that were chosen by a panel of judges

that included officers and enlisted personnel from various commands currently aboard Reagan.

"We did it so the crew will have something to enjoy as we approach the halfway mark of cruise," said Coffin.

"We did it so the crew would have something to enjoy as we approach the halfway mark of cruise."

-- Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Scott Coffin

Taking home first place in the competition was Fire Controlman 2nd Class Johnie Crum, who played Johann Sebastian Bach's "Giga" on the violin. He was awarded a check for \$500 and three VIP laundry passes as the grand prize.

"It's awesome and gives people a chance to freely express themselves," said Crum. "People who come from all over the world

and different backgrounds are influenced by different things. Coming together like this you get to see the talents of other people," said Crum.

Second place honors were given to the band "Pinoy 76" that

as the "76 Styles" that included Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Richard Baker, Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Daniel Plympton, Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Chris Lapinig, Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class Anthony Sanchez, Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Michael Rubio, Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Francisco Delgado, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class Raedale Dulin, Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Geoffrey Gibson, Airman Patrick Ceremenio and Airman Apprentice David Garcia. The group received a check for \$150 dollars and special 2-day liberty passes.

According to the 3&2 Association, the turnout for the event was better than expected and plans are already in the works to put on another talent show for the crew.

"If you have a talent, you should share it with everyone else," said Crum.

Sailors pick up the PACE

By PH3 Chris Blachly

Staff Writer

Sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and the embarked Carrier Air Wing Fourteen (CVW-14) are always looking for ways spend their off-work hours as they enter the fourth month of the aircraft carrier's maiden deployment. Many can be seen exercising in the hangar bays, playing instruments together or break-dancing on a sheet of linoleum, but even more Sailors are filling their hours with classrooms and studying. The Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) offers Sailors a chance to take courses for college credit while underway.

NCPACE, coordinated by Reagan's Education Service Office (ESO), offers two ways for Sailors to pursue college degrees. Self-paced courses, in which enrolled Sailors receive a CD-ROM with course lectures, assignments and tests that they can complete in their own time, and instructor-led courses, where an instructor who lives on board the deployed ship teaches classes to the Sailors throughout the day.

Sailors participating in self-paced courses receive their lectures by way of a CD-ROM, bypassing Internet connectivity problems often associated with deployed ships. Once they receive the course

Sunset signals



PH3 (AW) Dominique Lasco

Quartermaster Seaman Caleb Robbins stands by to send a message to USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) by flashing light on the signal bridge aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

InsiderdotCom

Continuing education

www.collegeboard.com

College Board is non-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. The association is composed of more than 5,000 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, teaching and learning. Among its best known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, and the Advanced Placement Program. To find out more about educational success log on to collegeboard.com today!

Online Healthcare

www.webMD.com

WebMD provides valuable health information, tools for managing your health, and support to those who seek information. You can trust that the content is timely and credible. The staff at WebMD blends award-winning expertise in medicine, journalism, health communication and content creation to bring you the best health information possible. The Independent Medical Review Board at WebMD continuously reviews the site for timeliness and accuracy. The site is dedicated to providing quality health information and to upholding the integrity of their editorial process. From getting new fitness tips to coordinating a new diet, you can find it all at WebMD.

This Day in History

1931 Fox drops John Wayne

Fox Film Corp. drops John Wayne from its roster of actors. Wayne had started playing bit parts at the studio in 1928 after working on the lot as a laborer.

1936 Tornadoes devastate Tupelo and Gainsville

On this day in 1936, two small towns in Mississippi and Georgia are devastated by tornadoes, killing 200 people in one of the deadliest spates of tornadoes in United States history. A total of 466 people were killed over four days of nearly continuous twisters.

PACE

Continued from page 3

material, Sailors are free to study and complete it as their working schedules allow.

The instructor-led courses follow a more structured approach to learning. NCPACE provides instructors to the ship based on the proposed enrollment in the courses. For the upcoming term, Reagan has four instructors teaching 36 classes over the course of two months.

"NCPACE courses go by so much faster than standard college courses that we really have to adjust the curriculum," said NCPACE instructor Don Burdett. "A normal college class runs for thirteen weeks. The classes I teach on board only last for eight. You have to really focus on the essentials of your subject. There's not time for anything else."

Not intimidated by the extra work involved, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman (AW) Edward Stackpole and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) David Gonzales head to their Criminal Intent class in the Distance Learning classroom below Regan's mess decks with notebooks and brown paper covered textbooks in hand.

"The instructors know we work long hours already and are very supportive," says Stackpole. "They modify the curriculum to compensate for that. It's the knowledge you would receive at a college, but it's a totally different course."

The extra work isn't the only thing Sailors have to take into account.

"My chain of command has been very supportive of my schedule," explained Gonzales, "but that doesn't mean I'm not still responsible for my job. Before I can go to class, I have to make sure my shift is covered by someone else."

For most Sailors, that usually means trading hours with someone else, which means more work, and less time to study. But Burdett says that Navy students are up to the challenge.

"I prefer to teach Navy Sailors. Since they've gone through boot camp, they understand the importance of structure, and they know how to work. Sailors know how important it is to study, and be prepared for tests because in order to advance and get paid more, they have to pass a rating exam. Sailors taking courses are simply more dedicated to their education than the average college student. I wouldn't want to be teaching anyone else."

WANTED CAPTIONS



Calling all comedians! So you think you're pretty funny, huh? Come up with an amusing, *appropriate* caption for this photo and send it to sennsd@cvm76.navy.mil with "Caption Contest" in the subject line. The winning caption will be posted in the next issue.

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

FIRST

Look Air Boss, da plane, da plane!

ATCS Terrence McClain
AIMD/IM3

SECOND

AN Shmuckatelli eyes the trajectory in preparation for a boogie launching.

ATAN Eric Dymek
AIMD/IM3



THIRD

And today on the flight deck, Operation Ditz commenced.

Anonymous



CNIC Signs Memorandum With VFW

*By Ed Wright,
Commander, Navy
Installations Command
Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) in March with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) to provide assistance to Sailors and their families on military installations.

CNIC Chief of Staff Capt. John Cohoon and VFW Commander In Chief James Mueller signed the agreement that formalizes relationships targeted toward enhancing quality family support services to military personnel through the organization's Military Assistance Program (MAP).

Under the program, the VFW will offer assistance in keeping military personnel in touch through Operation Uplink, a program that distributes pre-paid phone cards to troops and hospitalized veterans. Emergency financial relief funds are also made available to qualifying military families needing assistance. The organization offers employment assistance

to military spouses and personnel preparing for transition from military serve to civilian-sector careers, too.

Essex' Community Commitment Continues With Pohang Orphanage

*By MC3 Marvin E.
Thompson Jr., USS Essex
Public Affairs*

POHANG, Republic of Korea (NNS) -- Sailors from USS Essex (LHD 2) had the unique opportunity to play with many enthusiastic kids here by helping out a local orphanage March 25.

The community service project was carried out at Pohang's Sun Rin Ae Yuk Won Orphanage, where Essex Sailors interacted with the children, and performed maintenance as well as transplanting a tree and some painting.

MSC Europe Gets New Name

*From Sealift Logistics
Command Europe
Public Affairs*

NAPLES, Italy (NNS) -- Military Sealift Command (MSC) Europe, the European theatre's chief ocean transportation

and combat logistics provider, was officially disestablished and renamed Sealift Logistics Command Europe (SEALOGEUR) during a ceremony at the command's headquarters in Naples, Italy, March 31.

This new name reflects the changes SEALOGEUR has undergone in the past 18 months as a part of Military Sealift Command's global transformation efforts. MSC is SEALOGEUR's parent command and is responsible for moving 95 percent of all U.S. military cargo used around the globe as well as providing food, fuel, ammunition and supplies to the U.S. Navy fleet at-sea.

Navy to Negotiate Long-Term Lease, Redevelopment of Navy Broadway Complex, San Diego

*From Naval Facilities
Engineering Command*
WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of the Navy has selected the development team of Manchester Financial Group L.P. d/b/a Federal San Diego LLC to participate in exclusive negotiations for the purpose of entering into a long-term lease for the redevelopment

of the Navy Broadway Complex in downtown San Diego. The government's goal is to consolidate its administrative facilities and create efficient quality, and centralized office space for the Navy.

The Broadway Complex is an existing Navy facility encompassing approximately 14.72 acres of waterfront land in the downtown area of the City of San Diego.

Section 2732 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, Public Law 99-661, 100 Stat. 4046, provides authority for the Navy to lease the Broadway Complex site in exchange for the construction of facilities for Navy use on the site.

No Definitive Cause for 2005 North Carolina Stranding: Injuries Not Consistent With Sonar Use

*Special release from the
Navy News Service*

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the final National Marine

Fisheries Service (NMFS) report March 29 regarding the marine mammal stranding that occurred at Oregon Inlet, N.C. on Jan. 15, 2005.

NOAA's investigation found no physical evidence of sonar involvement in the stranding.

U.S. Naval Forces Assist in Search and Rescue in Bahrain

*From U.S. Naval Forces
Central Command
Public Affairs*

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) -- U.S. 5th Fleet assets and personnel responded immediately at approximately 10:15 p.m., March 30 after learning that a vessel capsized in a Bahraini harbor, approximately one mile east of the command's headquarters in Bahrain.

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels, including USCGC Wrangell (WPB 1332) got underway from the Bahrain port to support Bahrain's rescue efforts. A U.S. Navy helicopter is currently in the air, and another is standing by to assist the government of Bahrain who has the lead on search and rescue efforts. In addition, 16 Navy divers are standing by.

READER'S CHOICE

Where would
your ideal port
call be located?



AN Thomas Tylutki
"Venice, Italy"



A02 Rafael Lopez
"Cancun, Mexico"



ADAN Nicholas Maro
"NAS Lemoore!"



AMAN Peter Hecht
"Perth, Australia"

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Since you work with the photo mates, I'm going to ask you a very important question. What happens to all those photographs they take? I see them all around the ship, but only a few photographs ever make it in the newspaper. What happens to all the rest, and how can I see them? I know they've caught me on film, well maybe not on film, but I know they took my photo.

Take My Picture

Dear Take,

Our hard-working photographer's mates are always out shooting photographs. These photographs appear in "The Great Communicator," on the Navy NewsStand, on the Reagan Web site, on the Reagan Friends and Family Web site, and on the Intranet. If you can't get Internet access, try the Intranet. The photographs can be found on the Operations Department link under OP Division. Just click on "Photo Album" to see all the released images since we left on deployment. By the way, all the back issues of "The Great Communicator" are also there.

The Editor

Today's Movies

Ch. 2 - Master and
Commander
Ch. 3 - Rocky 9U
Ch. 4 - The Perfect
Score
Ch. 5 -
Sleepwalkers

Ch. 2 - A Love Song
for Bobby Long
Ch. 3 - K-19: The
Widowmaker
Ch. 4 - Midnight
Run
Ch. 5 - Off Key

Tomorrow's Movies

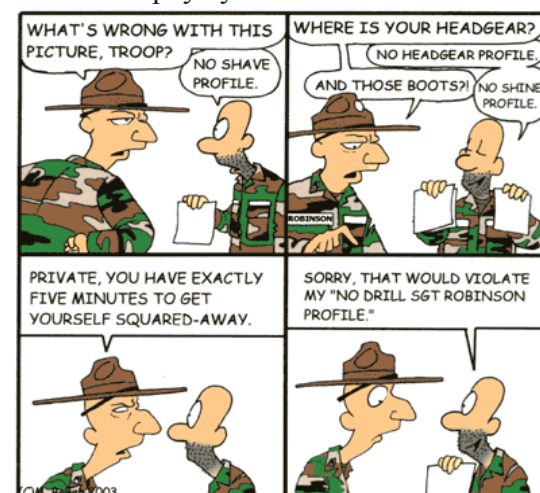
Ch. 2 - Three
Musketeers
Ch. 3 - Star Wars:
Attack of the Clones
Ch. 4 - The Big
Bounce
Ch. 5 - Under the
Tuscan Sun

Ch. 2 - U.S.
Marshals
Ch. 3 - Vanity Fair
Ch. 4 - A Guy Thing
Ch. 5 - White Men
Can't Jump

Sempertoons by Charles Wolf



Private Murphy by Mark Baker



Geedunk by Jeff Hobrath



Just for Laughs

Comics provided by
Military.com

Got News?

The Great Communicator is always looking for story and photo ideas. If you or your division are doing something newsworthy contact the editor, sennsd@cvn76.navy.mil, and let us know. But remember . . . old news isn't news at all.



PHAN (AW) Christine Singh

Seaman Ariane Ellis scoops up a brush full of white paint to apply to the overhead in a sponson aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).



Department:

Operations

Job Title:

Identification operator

Where are you from?

John's Island, S.C.

What inspires you?

God

Why did you join the Navy?

College

Who is responsible for your success?

God

and family

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

You can do anything you put your mind to



OS3 Josephine Bligen

April 1, 2006



AEAN Carl Spalin

April 2, 2006

Department:

VAQ-139

Job Title:

None

Where are you from?

Raleigh, N.C.

What inspires you?

Success

Why did you join the Navy?

For a new experience

Who is responsible for your success?

My dad

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

Do what you can to get what you want



For NAVY Relief!

*For information on contributing to Navy Relief,
contact your Division representative.*